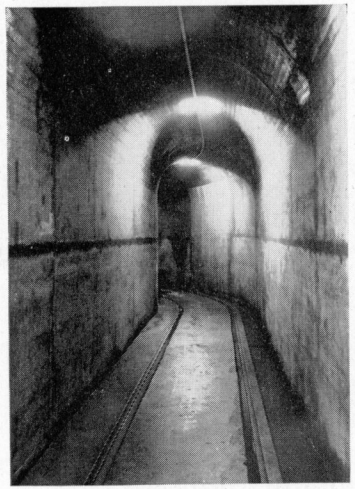
A Story of Man Is Unfolded at Grand Coulee Dam

INFINITE detail has gone into the plans and their subsequent transfer into the reality of concrete and steel. Truly, it almost is past human conception to see the huge bulk of fabricated metal and sand rise before the eye and visualize the painstaking care which resulted in this Twentieth Century Colossus—a challenge to the forces of nature and soon to encompass her resources to the furtherance of man's need. Precision is the word which marks every detail going into the project, to date having occupied approximately 50,000,000 man-hours from the day when the first truckload of dirt was hauled for initial operations.

The excavation necessary to construct the dam was in excess of 22,000,000 cubic yards of dirt and stone. While this work was under way, a railroad spur of 32 miles was run in to the dam site from the transcontinental railways traversing the state. Materials had to be transported and machinery prepared for handling the gigantic task of setting in motion the greatest labor man ever had undertaken. Supplies and foodstuffs and the thousand-and-one things necessary to the latest American frontier had to be provided. Equipment, material, and supplies, bolstering the payrolls in almost every state in the Union, began flowing in a never-ending stream to the mushroom towns which had their inception over night.



Men came—and more men. Each was answering the call to adventure as word spread of the undertaking soon to be heralded throughout the civilized world as the outstanding engineering feat of all time.

Youth Seeks Adventure

Laborers, skilled mechanics, tradesmen, and that youth searching for he knows not what, soon added their presence to the scene of activity. Each sought work or an opportunity to enjoy adventure in an unknown world.

So, Grand Coulee Dam and its building is a story of men. They it is who have made and developed the massive machinery to do their bidding, and, again, they are the same men who fearlessly drove toward the goal of accomplishment in the daily task to harness the forces of nature and bring forth from arid wastes of the Columbia Basin a new and fertile land for future generations. Sixty of these frontiersmen have paid with their lives for the thrill of adventure as found in having a hand in the construction of the gigantic project. To them, the dam will be a permanent monument, just as it will be to the thousands who have toiled in freezing weather and with temperatures ranging up to 100 degrees, that the work may go forward. Each has contributed his bit to the performance of a mighty task which, in the years to come, will be dedicated to the memory of these men.